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146 S. Monroe St.,
Tallahassee - Florida

The Morning Sun

1907

SPRING AND SUMMER

1907

Published in Tallahassee while the Legislature is in session
Daily Except Monday

CLAUDE L'ENGLE, Editor
THE SUN COMPANY, Publisher

Application made for entry as second-class mail matter in postoffice at Tallahassee, Florida.

The Times-Union of Thursday, in condemnation of a bill now pending in the Legislature, prints a quotation from it and says:

"It will be seen that this bill is based upon a principle HITHERTO UNKNOWN to our system of taxation . . ."

In its zeal to defend the "interests" the prejudice of the Times-Union forces the corporation bible to display its ignorance.

Because—

The quotation which the Times-Union prints from the bill, and on which it bases its opposition to the measure—

Is a part of Section 522 of the General Statutes of Florida.

Again would the Times-Union attempt to mislead the people.

Why?

Because that is the purpose of its existence.

It must do this—

Because—

The Times-Union is owned by the Atlantic Coast Line, the Florida East Coast and the Seaboard Air Line Railway Companies.

The Times-Union is NOT a newspaper—it IS a chattel.

And the Chattel of a Republican who contributed \$2,000 to elect a Republican Governor of New York.

LOOK OUT! HERE'S COMPULSORY VACCINATION.

On first reading of the bill, which, by the way, is a timely expression, I was ready to unqualifiedly indorse the new Board of Health bill introduced the other day by Dr. Smith of Lake.

I rejoiced that this was so, because I thought I saw a good chance to salve some sore spots I made when I was obliged to call the other Board of Health bill of the same character a bad bill in some of its provisions.

The House saw them, too, and killed the bill.

In the exuberance of my joy over my discovery of a good Board of Health bill, I read this last one of Dr. Smith's over again.

Alas! and alack! this second reading of the bill (still parliamentary, you see) disclosed a grinning skeleton lurking in the last part of Section 1.

Which pains me.

Not the finding of the skeleton.

I am glad I found him, so that I may drag him out and scare up the legislators some.

I am pained because I have to play the role of objector. This pains me for two reasons—

First, I do not like it.

Second, I poach on a Senatorial prerogative assumed by my friend and fellow-townsmen Harry Buckman who objects to everything.

Fate is inexorable, and as it willed that I should reverse the latest Board of Health bill, known as House Bill No. 488, it forces me to point out these few lines taken from the bill—

"The State Board of Health shall have power to make separate rules and regulations to meet any emergency not provided for by general rules . . . for the purpose of suppressing nuisances and communicable, contagious and infectious diseases"

Reading between these lines I see—
COMPULSORY VACCINATION.

Some persons may say that I am riding my hobby when I raise this point about the interpretation possible to be made of these innocent words.

Maybe so, but this vaccination is an abomination, and we cannot be too careful how we regard the gap that let it in.

Better close this gap with an amendment.

The State Board of Health may declare smallpox an infectious disease, and under the authority vested by this bill it may decide that vaccination must be injected on every man, woman and child in any town in which a case or two of smallpox appears.

The rest of the bill seems to be all right, and, after this vaccination business is fixed, the bill should pass.

It is right to give the State Board of Health power to keep the people well.

But, in doing this do not give it power to make people sick.

And vaccination makes people sick.

W. R. Wilson

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